

THE REVOLUTION.

Important News from Washington.

Special Message of the President to Congress.

The Armistice Proposed by the Virginia Legislature.

THE ULTIMATUM OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Fort Sumter Must be Surrendered or Captured.

The Brooklyn Bound South on a Mission of Peace.

THE ALLEGED PLOT TO SEIZE THE CAPITAL.

A Bill Providing for the Enrolment of Volunteers.

Anticipated Attack on the Mint in Georgia.

The Admission of Kansas Into the Union.

THE INAUGURAL OF THE PRESIDENT ELECT.

The Union Meeting at the Cooper Institute Last Night.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

A SETTLEMENT OF PENDING DIFFICULTIES PREDICTED.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 1861.

I learn from good authority that Mr. Lincoln has written a letter to one of his Cabinet Ministers, which confirms the statement made in my despatch in today's Herald, that he will not object to the Border State proposition if his party will agree upon it as a basis of settlement. This letter was yesterday shown to a distinguished member of the Virginia Legislature, who is a candidate for higher honors, and he expressed himself well satisfied with the suggestions of Mr. Lincoln, and paid him a high compliment for comprehending the subject so well, and manifesting a disposition to respond to the demands of the time before his party acted, thereby showing that he is a leader, and not a demagogue.

It is now certain that all the influence of incoming republican administration will be thrown in favor of a speedy settlement of our national difficulties. I state what I know, when I affirm that letters have been read in this city, within the last two days, from eminent chiefs of the republican party, fresh from an interchange of opinion with the President elect, urgently counselling the republicans in Congress to adopt speedy measures of pacification.

It is further known that all the leaders have been in conference during the last forty-eight hours, devising some mode of settlement. Mr. Lovejoy, of Illinois, is open in his declaration that the party is solid.

The next few days will develop a complete change of policy on the part of the republican party.

Advices from Springfield conditionally report that it is the desire of Mr. Lincoln to have a settlement of the difficulties before he reaches Washington, and he has signified the same to some prominent republicans here, and it should not astonish the people if a partial change of front be the next measure in the republican ranks.

Senator Seward, in the course of his conversation to-day with the members of the Milwaukee and Chicago Bords, said:—"Heretofore the cry has been raised to save the Union when the Union was not in danger. I tell you, my friends, the question of slavery is not now to be taken into account. We must save the Union. Then we will all that is worth saving."

The Personal Liberty bill in Rhode Island, and the late action of the Ohio Legislature on the same subject, are hailed by the friends of the Union as harbingers of peace.

Affairs wear a more hopeful aspect. A large number of distinguished gentlemen from all parts of the country are encouraged by the prospect of being able to contribute to a restoration of good feeling between the two sections.

The friends of the Union are much encouraged by the prompt responses to the invitation for Commissioners from the several States to meet in Convention here on the 4th of February, and it is believed the action of the Convention will command the support of a large majority of both branches of Congress.

A NEW FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 1861.

In the Senate to-day Mr. Douglas asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill amendatory of and supplemental to the acts of the 12th of February, 1793, and the 12th of September, 1850, in relation to the rendition of fugitives from justice and service.

Section 1 provides that the demand by a Governor of a State or Territory for the surrender of a fugitive from justice shall be made upon a Judge of any Federal court in the State or Territory where the fugitive has taken refuge, instead of being made on the Governor, as by the act of 1793, which was rendered nugatory by the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Prigg vs. Pennsylvania. It is also provided that the words "treason, felony and other crimes" shall be construed to include all offences committed within and against the State or Territory making the demand, whether the acts charged were criminal or not in the State where the fugitive was found.

Section 2 provides for giving the fugitive a jury trial in the State or Territory from which he fled.

Section three provides that no person shall be recovered, or commitment, a fugitive slave shall not be recovered, the owner may bring suit for and recover the value in the Court of Claims, the amount to be paid from the United States Treasury, the Solicitor thereof to bring suit, in the name of the United States, against the county, city or municipality, where the recovery was prevented, for the amount paid for such fugitive.

Section four repeals all offensive parts of the act of 1850 in respect to harboring and protecting fugitives, and to the fees paid in case of rendition, and other obnoxious features.

Section five repeals all laws inconsistent with the enactment.

The bill was read twice by unanimous consent, and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The above bill was submitted to Mr. Crittenden and other distinguished Senators, all of whom concur in its provisions.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 1861.

hundred and sixty patients to be removed, in order that the building might be occupied as barracks by the State troops. He denounces it as an act of outrageous barbarity, disgraceful to any age or country.

A despatch was received this evening from Senator Henry, dated Tennessee, addressed to Governor Bigler and the Senators, stating that seventeen hundred men were on the ground to resist the reinforcement of Fort Pickens, and that if the Brooklyn attempted to force the Fort a bloody battle would ensue. Governor Bigler communicated this despatch to the President.

No apprehension need be entertained of an attack on Fort Sumter so long as Colonel Hayne remains in this city, which will be for some ten days or two weeks yet.

The repeated statements that Mr. Buchanan has received any official information or positive information in any shape that Mr. Lincoln is coming here this week, are without the slightest foundation in truth. If he comes here at all before the 3d of March, which he has not yet decided upon, it will not be until after the vote is counted on the 13th of February. If he concludes to come immediately after the vote is counted he will have Springfield on the 11th or 12th of February.

Mr. Iverson, of Georgia, following the example of his State, succeeded from the Senate to-day. The Louisiana Senators will go next.

The new State of Kansas will, probably, elect M. F. Pannett, the present delegate of that Territory, and F. B. Stanton, Secretary of the Territory under Governor Walker, as United States Senators. They will not be able to take their seats before the 4th of March.

Considerable stir was created in the House to-day by a resolution instructing the Committee on Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill to repeal the duty on sugar. The opinion is expressed that such a bill will be reported and passed.

The delegations from the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce and the Chicago Board of Trade made a formal call upon the President this evening, and were received with cordiality. They informed him, in a brief address, that from Philadelphia, where they had come by invitation from the Board of Trade of the latter city, they had continued their journey to Washington, and had great pleasure in calling upon his Excellency, and desired to say to him that they were strongly attached to the Union and would stand by it to the last; that they commended him for his late course regarding our national difficulties, and that they were glad to see him here; that they had heretofore parted out of Congress the less he had understood, and hence must forbear to give any expression publicly, but assured the delegations they had a hearty welcome; that he felt highly honored by their presence, and remarked that five weeks more would end his responsibility in conducting this government; and if it should give Lincoln as much pleasure to assume the responsibilities as it would him to lay aside, he (Mr. Lincoln) would be a very happy man.

The delegation expressed their commendation for his message of to-day, and withdrew, calling next upon General Scott, who received them gladly, and humorously remarked, as the party left his parlor, that he was taken prisoner. He was assured that the country was looking eagerly and with great reliance upon him for help at this juncture, to which he replied—"I shall do all and the best I can."

The party next called upon Senator Seward, and were received with the same cordiality. Mr. Seward was assured that the delegation were strong for the Union; to which he replied that he hoped the people would apply themselves to the work at hand. He said this was not a question of freedom or slavery, but the Union, to save which every man's efforts should be directed.

Lastly the delegation called upon Judge Douglas, and were received cordially and hospitably.

The Chicago Board of Trade, on their way to this city, were cordially received by the Board of Trade of the different cities through which they passed, except in Baltimore, where the Board voted not to receive them, on account of their coming from the West at this time, fearing that they would be taken for Wide Awakes. Instead of receiving any courtesies, they were annoyed by policemen, who tracked them wherever they went. This caused many of the Chicago gentlemen who are democrats to express themselves in terms of indignation. They have been busy to-day visiting the different points of interest.

The utmost cordiality has been extended here to the Western visitors.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 1861.

Robert E. Scott, of Virginia, whose name has been mentioned in connection with the Cabinet of the incoming administration by any one authorized to do so by Mr. Lincoln, has addressed a letter to the House Select Committee of Thirty-three, in which he says "I will never submit to the Chicago platform doctrine that no slave territory shall be acquired. He says the increase of slave population in the States will soon demand more room, and asserts that it must be acceded to, and says if these demands can be obtained in the Union we are content to remain in the Union. If not, we will seek them out of it."

One of the heads of the department said to a member of Congress to-day that unless the most energetic steps were resorted to the city will be taken possession in less than ten days by the conspirators against the government.

A storm was raised in the House to-day because the Military Committee reported a bill providing for an oath to be taken by the militia of this District that they will be true to the Union. It passed handsomely, with the votes of several Northern democrats against it.

The affair between Messrs. Dean and Rust, growing out of words spoken in debate on Friday, has been honorably adjusted to-day by the aid of judicial friends, without a challenge having passed between them. But for the great care and skill shown by the friends who negotiated the settlement, the principals, who are both game men, would have had a hostile meeting.

The Boston printer, wrapped in the American flag, was presented to the House to-day, by Hon. A. H. Rice, of Boston. The venerable commissioner occupied the gallery assigned to the foreign diplomatic corps, and were objects of interest to members. The objection of Mr. Lovejoy, of Illinois, to having the petition printed, afforded significant evidence of the intention of his constituents to vote in favor of compromise, unless done from headquarters to that effect. The speaker, however, did not hear the objection, but the Democratic side of the House did, and applauded.

Kansas is nearly admitted, and now the whole is a people, who are suffering all sorts of desolation and distress by their own showing, can desire to undertake the heavy expenditures and extraordinary taxation consequent upon supporting a State government. Kansas stands before the country with a petition for relief in one hand and a prayer to be allowed to exercise the transaction of her citizens in the other.

Ex-President Tyler visited both Houses to-day.

Mr. Logan's proposition, that the border slave States be requested to hand in their ultimatums, was amended by Mr. Morris, of Illinois, so as to include all slave States. It did not receive much encouragement from either side.

Amos A. Lawrence, of the Joint Committee, had private consultations with leading Union men here, and the universal report is that they are helpless unless the republicans come to the rescue.

Among the unfortunate events likely to accrue from the present troubles, is the prospective ruin of the "Herald." A resolute adverse to purchasing it for editorial military aid, or academy, has been introduced in the House.

Private accounts from Augusta report that the transfer of Arsenal to the State troops was conducted in a manner that did not compromise Capt. Elzey in the least. People are making liberal donations of supplies for the troops who now garrison it. Arsenal. It has been officially declared that the culpability of the Arsenal by the State was not an act of hostility against the United States government.

Hon. John H. Hyde, of New York, will to-morrow report, from the floor of the Senate by the Vice-President, the bill to amend the act of 1850, in relation to the admission of Kansas, which passed the House, with the Senate amendments, creating a judicial district, without even calling the yeas and nays. It now awaits the President's signature to remove from the political arena the vexed question arising from time to time in the Territory of Kansas. So sure are members that the President will sign the bill, that the republicans, immediately after the vote, were very busy congratulating Mr. Conway, member elect under the Wyandott constitution. Charles Robinson, formerly of Massachusetts, is the Governor elect of the State of Kansas.

To-morrow Mr. Reynolds, of New York, from the select committee to which was referred the special message of the President of the United States, will present to the President of the country will introduce the following bill, authorizing the President to call forth the militia and accept the services of volunteers to such an extent as may be necessary at any time to protect the public property.

A bill to be entitled an act further to provide for calling forth the militia of the United States in certain cases.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled, that it shall be lawful for the President of the United States, whenever and as often as in his opinion it shall become necessary to call forth the militia of all or any of the States of the United States, or to accept the services of volunteers to such an extent as may be required to protect and defend the forts, magazines, arsenals, dock yards, navy yards, public buildings and other property of the United States which have been or may be unlawfully seized or taken possession of by any combination of persons whatsoever; and the provisions of an act authorizing the employment of land and naval forces of the United States in cases of insurrection, approved March 3, 1807, and all existing laws and regulations relating to the actual service of the militia of the United States, shall be applicable to the employment of the same, under the provisions of this act.

Although the select committee from which the above bill is to be reported have accumulated a vast deal of information upon the subject of the conspiracy now going on to overthrow the government, and have issued subpoenas for a large number of witnesses, yet none have yet been examined. The first witness—Mayor Barrett, of this city—will be examined to-morrow. Other city and Federal officers and employees in the various departments and at the Capitol will be called as witnesses, and before the examination is through there will be some hard swearing and stirring denials. The conspirators here and in the States are well known, and if the artillery, dragoons and infantry belonging to the regular service are not sufficient to repulse any attempt to violate the public peace or seize the public buildings, there will be loyal citizens enough in Washington, Virginia, Maryland and other States who will fly to arms and protect the national honor and the national flag.

It would be a crime any longer to deny the fact that a deliberate and organized plan is on foot to seize and plunder this capital, and the leaders of the conspiracy are sworn to protect it.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 1861.

Mr. Ashmore, member of Congress from South Carolina, has addressed a letter to Acting Postmaster General King, asking if he has the right to exercise the franking privilege, as he has some ten or twelve hundred documents upon which he does not feel willing to pay postage, and which documents would be useless unless he can frank them.

Postmaster King replied that according to the theory of the administration South Carolina was still in the Union, and hence he has a right to frank until the first Monday in December next. If, however, he regards South Carolina as out of the Union, it is a question with himself whether he can consistently exercise that privilege, the use of which would be an admission that he does not in his conscience consider that she is out of the Union, and that he is still a member of the Congress of the United States.

The Senate Joint Committee had another protracted meeting to-day. They will probably complete the bill so as to report it on Wednesday next. It will be resisted by its enemies, but not successfully, for it will have a clear majority in the Senate now, owing to the vacant Southern seats.

Mr. Barr, of New York, has been detained from his seat for several days by indisposition.

The President's special message concerning the Virginia resolutions, and the reference to ex-President Tyler in favor of compromise, and the suggestions of the Executive in favor of conciliation, a received with much satisfaction, and is calculated to have a beneficial effect.

Soon after the electoral vote shall be counted in the presence of the two houses of Congress, on the second Wednesday in February, Mr. Lincoln will acquaint the public with his views on the pending crisis. Heretofore he has not felt that it was proper for him, in advance of the official declaration of his election, to take a prominent part in the direction of political affairs.

The fugitive slave law introduced to-day in the Senate by Mr. Douglas is considered a thorough and effective measure, obviating the objections to the present statute that have been made by the friends of the Union.

Senator Benjamin and Ells, since the accession of Louisiana, have taken no active part in the proceedings of the Senate. They will formally vacate their seats as soon as they shall have received official information of the passage of the ordinance of secession.

President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the rules and articles of war.

The information upon which the recent belligerent action of Congress is based is derived from the authorities of Maryland. The impression, however, that any important organization for the purpose of creating trouble exists here, is not generally credited.

Hon. Thad. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, would have replied to Mr. Pryor to-day, but gave way to enable the Committee of Five to report. Mr. Stevens will speak to-morrow.

Edward Everett and Robert C. Winthrop were invited to speak on the floor of the Senate by the Vice-President. They received the congratulations of several Senators, but Mr. Wilson and Mr. Sumner did not approach them. Of the Massachusetts delegation, Messrs. Geoch, Buffum, Alley and Dawes are avowedly anti-compromise.

The House postponed the special order, the report of the Committee of Thirty-three, and suspended the rules by a vote of 149 to 43, to take up the bill to admit Kansas, which passed the House, with the Senate amendments, creating a judicial district, without even calling the yeas and nays. It now awaits the President's signature to remove from the political arena the vexed question arising from time to time in the Territory of Kansas. So sure are members that the President will sign the bill, that the republicans, immediately after the vote, were very busy congratulating Mr. Conway, member elect under the Wyandott constitution. Charles Robinson, formerly of Massachusetts, is the Governor elect of the State of Kansas.

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It is not believed that a majority of secessionists will be elected to any of the conventions of the border slave holding States. The conventions, according to private information received here, will be composed for the greater part of moderate and conservative men, who will not proceed to extremes unless all measures of pacification shall be exhausted. The great point now aimed at by the friends of the Union is to avoid all pretext for civil war, and to secure the peace of the country.

The "other second thought of the people," if adjustment measures shall be presented, will induce them to resume their connection with the Federal government.

IMPORTANCE FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 28, 1861.

The Legislature in executive session to-day on the correspondence between Governor Pickens, Colonel Hayne and the government at Washington, from which it appears that the ultimatum of South Carolina was the surrender of Fort Sumter and the withdrawal of the Federal troops, and that she promised to pay the Federal government for the forts; but that Colonel Hayne, in deference to the wishes of Southern Congressmen, withheld the proposition.

Governor Pickens now tells Colonel Hayne to make a final demand for the forts, and repudiate the position of the government at Washington, from which it appears that the ultimatum of South Carolina was the surrender of Fort Sumter and the withdrawal of the Federal troops, and that she promised to pay the Federal government for the forts; but that Colonel Hayne, in deference to the wishes of Southern Congressmen, withheld the proposition.

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IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

THIRTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 1861.

Several communications were received from the departments.

Mr. Seward, (rep.) of N. Y., presented a petition from the citizens of New York, remonstrating against any legislation or giving any protection to slavery in the Territories.

Also a petition of seven hundred citizens of New York, praying for the removal of the difficulties.

Mr. DENHAM, (rep.) of Ill., introduced a bill amendatory of the act of 1793 and the act of 1850 in relation to fugitive slaves.

Mr. GWIN, (rep.) of Cal., presented the petition of Dr. Rabe, Secretary of the Pacific Railroad Convention, held in California in 1859 and 1860, transmitting the proceedings of the Convention, and a petition asking for the passage of the Railroad bill.

Mr. DENHAM, (rep.) of Ill., presented the petition of Moses Davenport and others, of Newburyport, Mass., in favor of a speedy passage of the Crittenden resolutions.

Mr. DENHAM, (rep.) of Ill., presented the petition of the citizens of the State of Missouri, praying for the adoption of the amendments to the constitution proposed by the Senator from Kentucky, to wit:—The recognition of slavery, and the protection south of latitude 36 degrees 30 minutes north only in the existing territory, and no territory not yet conquered, purchased or stolen; the denial of any power in Congress to interfere with slavery in the States while it existed in Virginia, and to prohibit the transportation of slaves from one State to another, or Territories recognizing slavery; to pay the owner the full value of a fugitive slave when the Marshal was prevented arresting him by intimidation, and to take from persons of African race the right of the franchise, which they have possessed in Massachusetts since the Constitution of the Commonwealth was adopted in 1780; and acquire territory in Africa or South America, and send at the expense of the Federal Treasury to the States of the Union, and to the people of the free States would secure the immense concession of making the fee of the Commissioner no greater for removing a man to slavery than for discharging him from the same.

Mr. DENHAM, (rep.) of Ill., presented resolutions in favor of the passage of the Crittenden resolutions.

Mr. HALL, (rep.) of N. H., offered a resolution inquiring into the expediency of the passage of the Crittenden resolutions, and the expediency of the passage of the Crittenden resolutions.

Mr. DENHAM, (rep.) of Ill., presented a large number of petitions from Michigan and other States asking the passage of his resolutions referring the present difficulties to the consideration of the people.

Mr. DENHAM, (rep.) of Ill., presented the resolutions which were adopted at the meeting of railroad presidents and officers, lately held in this city.

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